

From: Ness, Zoltan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:22pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the proposed Microsoft Settlement.

It is not a true penalty for Microsoft. Giving away software that costs Microsoft little beyond distribution, yet is counted at full price, reduces the penalty to literally a penny or less per dollar. Each copy costs less than one dollar to distribute, but claimed worth is hundreds of dollars for some of the software.

It also serves to further Microsoft's monopoly into an industry (education) which has traditionally had a healthy, competitive mix of personal computer alternatives (Apple, for example).

Rather than a having to live with the legal consequences of it's anticompetitive behavior, Microsoft would be given a less than token penalty AND given a DOJ mandated reason to extend it's monopoly into one of the few remaining strongholds of desktop OS competition.

Thank you for your consideration,

Zoltan Ness